

CITY Visions

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • OCTOBER 2003



New Police Station Opening in 2004

THE NEW Morgan Hill Police Station is moving closer to being a reality. The planning stage is complete and the architect is in the process of completing the contract documents for public bid. The project should go to bid sometime in October and should be ready for occupancy in the middle of 2004.

The facility is an industrial building of 43,305 square feet located at 16200 Vineyard Boulevard. The building, which was constructed in 2001 and has never been occupied, is built on three plus acres, is 75% complete on the interior, and is fully landscaped. The City will be converting the building into a state of the art police facility that will house all police functions including dispatch, records, emergency operations, temporary holding, and administration, in addition to patrol and crime control.

There were three key factors for acquiring this property. First, the building meets the department's current needs and includes room for future growth. Second, the City was able to obtain and convert the building at a total cost

SEE "POLICE" PAGE TWO


INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- HISTORIC AWARD FOR MORGAN HILL SCHOOL
- CITY HALL OFFERS PASSPORT SERVICES
- NEW ORDINANCE RESTRICTS DISCING
- COMMUNITY CALENDAR & CHANNEL 17 SCHEDULE

Just Eight Months Until The Big Splash!



Workers are putting the final touches on the plumbing system under the 50 meter pool.

WORK IS proceeding rapidly at the new Aquatics Complex on Condit Road. Look above to see a recent photo. In related activities, the City is beginning to hire staff for the facility and is drafting the plans, policies, and procedures to make our new Aquatics Complex a splashing success. 

Youth+You: *Make The Connection*

YOUTH PROGRAMS: YOUNG PERSON SPENDS THREE OR MORE HOURS PER WEEK IN SPORTS, CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS AT SCHOOL AND/OR IN THE COMMUNITY.

Adults can connect by supporting organized youth activities. Are you a potential soccer coach or chess club organizer? Do your children engage in extracurricular activities? Learn more about how you can connect by calling Volunteer Services at 779-7278.


ASSET OF THE MONTH
www.projectcornerstone.org

PROTECT YOUR BIGGEST INVESTMENT

YOUR HOME or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by the City of Morgan Hill, the value of your investment could be reduced substantially. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications done without permits, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied or do costly repairs. This may also give the buyer bargaining power when negotiating the sale price of the building.

In recent months, City staff have worked to make even more permits available “over the counter” in order to improve customer service and convenience. Staff can now immediately issue permits for most signs, pools, small accessory buildings, and minor plumbing, mechanical, and electrical projects without the need for time consuming review and consultation.

In addition, insurance companies may not cover work done without permits and inspections. A property owner who can show that code requirements were strictly and consistently met - as demonstrated by the Building Division's records - has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a potentially destructive lawsuit. Your permit also allows the Building Division to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction.

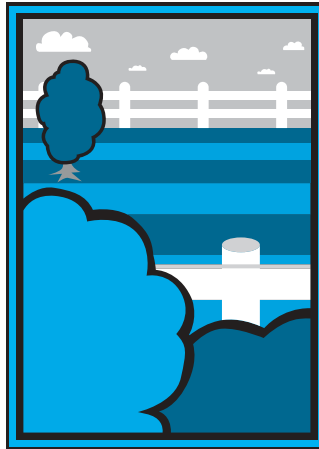
By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends, or future owners. 

Article by Mary Anne Kendall, Office Assistant II, Building Division, 779-7241, MAKendall@morgan-hill.ca.gov

SAFELY DISPOSE OF SHARPS

USED NEEDLES, commonly referred to as sharps, can be safely disposed of at no charge at the San Martin Transfer Station. These are dangerous to you and your garbage collector and should not be thrown away in your regular garbage. Sharps should be disposed of in a sharps container (available at local drug stores) or in a sealed, sturdy plastic container that is no larger than a detergent bottle. The Transfer Station is located at 14070 Llagas Avenue and is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.


NEW CITY ORDINANCE RESTRICTS LAND DISCING



IN ORDER to protect potential burrowing owl habitat, the City recently passed an ordinance placing appropriate restrictions on discing land.

In short, owners of parcels that are two acres or more can no longer disc their land for weed abatement purposes.

This law also applies to smaller parcels if they are contiguous to other parcels that, when combined, exceed two acres. Naturally, land used in the active production of agricultural products is exempted from the ordinance and there are other appropriate exemptions.


The complete ordinance can be found on the “What’s New” page on the City’s web site or is available by calling 779-7247. 

Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247 or teulo@morgan-hill.ca.gov

“POLICE” FROM PAGE ONE

much less than what it would have cost to build a new police facility. Third, the Department will be able to occupy the building much sooner than it would have been able to occupy a newly constructed facility.

In short, the acquisition of this building ensures the best possible use of tax payer dollars and will enable Morgan Hill police officers to provide the best possible police services to our community now and in the future.

The City is currently considering proposals for how to best develop the old police facility on the corner of Main and Monterey and will choose the option that best complements the economic development of our Downtown. 

Article by Jim Dumas, Senior Project Manager, 776-7373, DumasJ@morgan-hill.ca.gov




Morgan Hill School Receives Historic Preservation Award

THE OLD Morgan Hill Grammar School, now Carden Academy, is one of only 14 projects statewide to receive a Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2003.

The School was designed by renowned architect William H. Weeks in 1922 and constructed at a cost of \$47,500. It opened for students in September 1924 and was in continuous use for 63 years.

When it closed in June 1987, it was the oldest school building in operation in Northern California. The School spent the next ten years abandoned, neglected, and even vandalized. The Morgan Hill Redevelopment Agency purchased the site in December of 1997, for the proposed Community Center.

In response to proponents to save the School, the Agency issued a request for proposals in 1999 for developers to move and restore it. In early 2001, Llagas Valley Investors, in cooperation with the Morgan Hill Historical Society and with financial assistance from the Redevelopment Agency, cut the School into 14 pieces and moved them to the new site on Llagas Road. There the School was beautifully restored and structurally upgraded. In October 2002, it reopened as Carden Academy.

If you haven't already seen this "new" beautiful school, go take a look at this restored bit of local history. 

Article by Bill Newkirk, Business Assistance and Housing Analyst, 776-7373, Newkirkb@morgan-bill.ca.gov

OBTAIN A U.S. PASSPORT THROUGH CITY HALL

GREAT NEWS for those traveling abroad. You can now submit your request for a U.S. passport directly to City staff at City Hall. Did your City government get absorbed into the Federal government as a result of a secret reorganization? No - the City Clerk's Office decided to offer this service as a way to save local citizens time and money. City Clerk staff members have received training and have partnered with the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Passport Services and the United States Department of State to become a Passport Acceptance Agent.

The City Clerk's Office will accept passport applications Monday thru Thursday 9-12 and 1-3. Friday service is available by appointment only.

Routine passport service fees, which are set by the Federal government, are as follows:


AGE	PASSPORT FEE	EXECUTION FEE	TOTAL FEES
16 & OVER	\$55	\$30	\$85
UNDER 16	\$40	\$30	\$70

Routine passport applications will take approximately six weeks for the Federal government to process.

Expedited processing is available at an additional cost of \$60, plus the cost for two-way overnight delivery. Expedited passports will be processed by the Federal government within two weeks.

In order for the City Clerk's office to accept and process passport applications, the following will be required:

- COMPLETED PASSPORT APPLICATION (AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL OR AT TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/GET_FORMS.HTML)
- EVIDENCE OF CITIZENSHIP (PREVIOUSLY ISSUED VALID PASSPORT OR U.S. CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE)
- PASSPORT FEES (SEE ABOVE)
- TWO PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS (2" x 2" RECENT PHOTO)
- CURRENT PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

For passport questions, please feel free to visit the passport services electronically at the United States Department of State's website at travel.state.gov. or contact the National Passport Information Center at 1-900-225-5674. Please contact the City Clerk's office at 779-7271 for questions concerning the application process or to schedule an appointment to submit a passport application. 

Article by Irma Torrez, City Clerk, 779-7259

MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY GUIDE

CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS REGULAR SESSION:	10/01	7PM LIVE
	10/02	NOON REPLAY
	10/04	8PM REPLAY
	10/05	NOON REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	10/15	7PM LIVE
	10/16	NOON REPLAY
	10/18	8PM REPLAY
	10/19	NOON REPLAY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SESSION	10/22	7PM LIVE
	10/23	NOON REPLAY
	10/25	8PM REPLAY
	10/26	NOON REPLAY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS REGULAR SESSION:	10/14	7PM LIVE
	10/15	NOON REPLAY
	10/18	NOON REPLAY
	10/19	8PM REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	10/28	7PM LIVE
	10/29	NOON REPLAY
	11/01	NOON REPLAY
	11/02	8PM REPLAY
BICYCLE SAFETY (ENGLISH)	9:00AM & 4:30PM DAILY 7PM FRIDAY & MONDAY	
BICYCLE SAFETY (SPANISH)	10:00AM & 5:30PM DAILY 8:00PM FRIDAY	
FUGITIVE WATCH THE BAY AREA'S MOST WANTED	11:00AM & 6:30PM 9:00PM FRIDAY	

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

FARMER'S MARKET • EVERY SATURDAY

Call 779-5130 for more information.

MEASURE P CHANGES • OCTOBER 1ST

The City Council will be accepting public comment on proposed changes to the City's residential growth control system at the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers. Call 779-1247 for more information.

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP • OCTOBER 18TH

The next class is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th, from 10:00AM-12:00PM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 918-4640.

PARK MASTER PLAN SEEKS INPUT • OCTOBER 21ST

The Parks and Recreation Commission is holding a public meeting for the purpose of receiving input on the draft Community Park Master Plan at 8:00PM at the Community and Cultural Center. For more information, call Mori Struve at 776-7333.

END DAYLIGHT SAVINGS • OCTOBER 26TH

Don't forget to replace your smoke alarm batteries when you set your clock back one hour.

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Dennis Kennedy	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore Hedy L. Chang	778-0511
Councilmember Larry Carr	779-9622
Councilmember Greg Sellers	778-2370
Councilmember Steve Tate	779-6992
City Clerk Irma Torrez	779-7259
City Treasurer Michael Roorda	778-3653

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager J. Edward Tewes
City Attorney Helene L. Leichter
Assistant To The City Manager Melissa Stevenson Dile
Assistant To The City Manager Anthony Eulo
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director Garrett Toy
Community Development Director David Bischoff
Council Services and Records Manager Irma Torrez
Finance Director Jack Dilles
Human Resources Director Mary Kaye Fisher
Police Chief Gerald T. Galvin
Public Works Director Jim Ashcraft
Recreation and Community Services Manager Julie Spier

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assist. & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Community & Cultural Center	782-0008
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation & Community Services	782-0008
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278
City Hall Fax Number	779-3117

City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome.

Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or

environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

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